1. (Not Presently Amended) An aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

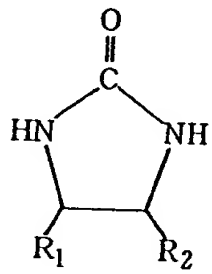
(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

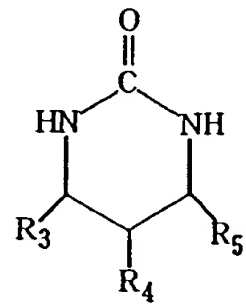
(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein R_1 to R_5 are independently each a hydrogen atom, CH_3 or C_2H_5.

2. (Not Presently Amended) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the pigment of (ii) is a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group.

3. (Not Presently Amended) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant of (i) is a pigment.

4. (Not Presently Amended) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the colorant of (i) and the pigment of (ii) are carbon black.

5. (Not Presently Amended) The aqueous ink composition according to claim l, wherein the compound represented by said general formula (I) is contained in an amount of 5 to 15 wt% based on the total weight of the aqueous ink.

6. (Not Presently Amended) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein said polyhydric alcohol is at least one selected from the group consisting of glycerin, propylene glycol, 1,5-pentanediol, 1,2,6-hexanetriol, and hexylene glycol, and the amount of said polyhydric alcohol is in a range of 0.1 to 10 wt%.

7. (Not Presently Amended) The aqueous ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the ink composition is used for ink jet recording.

8. (Not Presently Amended) An ink cartridge comprising an ink container containing an aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

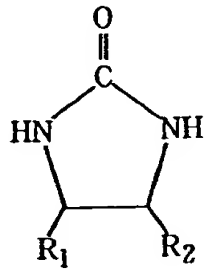
(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle, dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

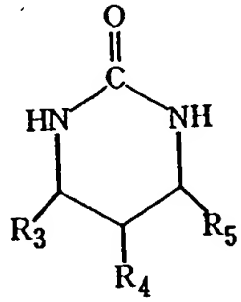
(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein R_1 to R_5 are independently each a hydrogen atom, CH_3 or C_2H_5.

9. (Not Presently Amended) A recording unit comprising an ink container containing an aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

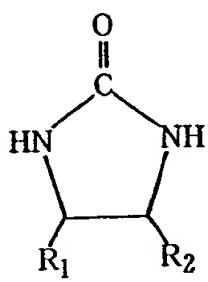
(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

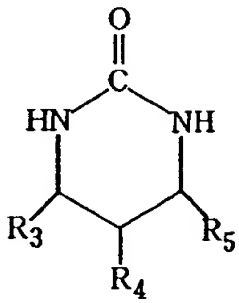
(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof; and

an ink jet head for ejecting the ink:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein R_1 to R_5 are independently each a hydrogen atom, CH_3 or C_2H_5.

10. (Not Presently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus comprising an ink container containing an aqueous ink composition for ink jet comprising:

(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

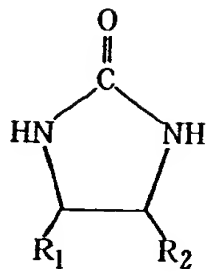
(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

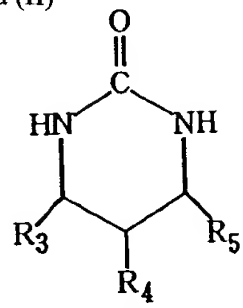
(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof; and

an ink jet head for ejecting the ink:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein R_1 to R_5 are independently each a hydrogen atom, CH_3 or C_2H_5.

11. (Not Presently Amended) An ink jet recording method comprising a step of applying an aqueous ink composition for ink jet to a recording material by an ink-jet process, said aqueous ink composition comprising:

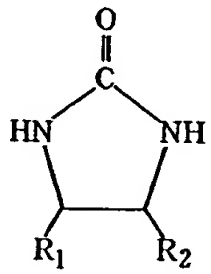
(i) a resin encapsulating a colorant and having a cationic hydrophilic group,

(ii) a self-dispersing pigment having a cationic hydrophilic group bonded to the surface directly or via another atomic group, or a pigment fine particle dispersed with a dispersant having a cationic hydrophilic group;

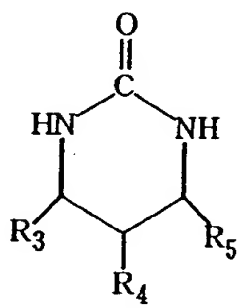
(iii) a polyhydric alcohol; and

(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I), a compound represented by the following general formula (II), and mixtures thereof:

General formula (I)



General formula (II)



wherein R_1 to R_5 are independently each a hydrogen atom, CH_3 or C_2H_5.